

Application No. 10/685179
After Final Office Action of August 30, 2005

Docket No.: 08577-00045-US

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendment and following remarks. Support for amended claim 18 can be found in the specification at page 8, line 36.

Claim 35 is similar to the previous claim 18 except that the lower limit has been amended to 1.6 for the ion exchange capacity. The applicant has added one claim and cancelled one claim.

Claims 18, 19 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 17, 18 and 19, respectively, of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,632,847 (" '847 patent"). The applicant respectfully disagrees. The applicant still believes that "shaping" is not the same as "using" and believes for this reason alone the rejection should be withdrawn.

However, assuming arguendo that the Examiner is correct, claim 18 is not identical to claim 17 of the '847 patent because claim 18 requires that the thickness of the membrane is at least 10 μm while claim 17 of the '847 patent is broader and requires that the thickness can include a thickness as low as 5 μm . Claim 36 is not identical to issued claim 17 of the '847 patent because it has an ion-exchange capacity of from 1.6 instead of from 1.3 as claimed in the '847 patent. The applicant has cancelled claim 19. Claim 34 is not identical to claim 19 of the '847 patent because it further limits claim 18 and has a narrower thickness of the membrane as stated above. For the above reasons, none of the claims are identical and this rejection should be withdrawn.

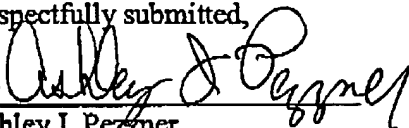
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 08577-00045-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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